

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 068989

P 211030Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2003

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LENDINGRAD 0277

EXDIS

EO 11652GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, GW, UR

SUBJ: FRG CONSUL GENERAL SLANDERED IN LENDINGRAD PRESS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE FEBRUARY 20 ISSUE OF LENDINGRAD'S EVENING PAPER, VECHERNIY LENDINGRAD, PRINTED HIGHLY DEROGATORY ARTICLE CONCERNING PAST AND PRESENT ACTIVITIES OF FRG CONSUL GENERAL IN LENDINGRAD, DR. ALFRED BLUMENFELD. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES CHARGES MADE AGAINST BLUMENFELD AND SETS FORTH FACTORS WHICH CONGEN CONSIDERS ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT AND WHICH ARE NOT RPT NOT NECESSARILY KNOWN OUTSIDE LENDINGRAD SETTING. END SUMMARY.

2. VECHERNIY LENDINGRAD ARTICLE, ENTITLED "HARBOURING A GRUDGE," IS SIGNED BY A. KOSTROV, A WRITER WHO PERIODICALLY AUTHORS PIECES FOR EVENING PAPER. CONGEN ASSUMES MOST OF ARTICLE CARRIED TASS WIRE AND FOLLOWING IS A SKETCH OF ARTICLE'S ALLEGATIONS WITH APPROPRIATE CONGEN COMMENTS.

3. FIRST THIRD OF ARTICLE USES SCENARIO OF OLD SCHOOL CHUMS GATHERING TO REMINISCE ABOUT CHILDHOOD DAYS AND "WHAT HAPPENED TO SO AND SO." GETTING AROUND TO "WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO ALFRED BLUMENFELD?" SOMEONE SAYS THAT HE IS PRESENTLY BACK IN LENDINGRAD AS THE FRG CONSUL GENERAL AND THEY DECIDE TO CALL HIM UP AND DO SO. ARTICLE SAYS THAT BLUEMENFELD LISTENED TO EXPLANATIONS AND THEN REPLIED THAT "NO, HE HAD NOT STUDIED IN A LENDINGRAD SCHOOL IN THE 1920'S; NO, THEY HAD CONFUSED HIM WITH SOMEONE ELSE; HE WAS A NATIVE OF BERLIN." AND, THE ARTICLE
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SAYS, BLUMENFELD HUNG UP THE PHONE. (CONGEN COMMENT: THIS IS ALL PURE

FABRICATION SINCE BLUMENFELD, FAR FROM HIDING HIS UNIQUE LENINGRAD BACKGROUND, IS BOTH PROUD AND OPEN ABOUT IT. HE FREQUENTLY TALKS ABOUT HIS SCHOOL DAYS AND, IN ACTUAL FACT, PERIODICALLY SEES SEVERAL OF HIS FORMER CLASSMATES.)

4. OPENING LINES OF SLANDER AGAINST BLUMENFELD USE FABRICATED STORY AS OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE THAT OLD SCHOOL MATES HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT BLUMENFELD HAD VERY SERIOUS REASONS FOR NOT ACKNOWLEDGING WHO HE WAS. STORY JUMPS BACK TO BEFORE THE REVOLUTION AND BLUMENFELD'S FATHER, ROBERT IOSIOFOVICH, A LAWYER WHO, AS MEMBER OF KADET PARTY, "CAME TO HATE SOVIET POWER, AND TOOK UP HOSTILE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY WHICH WAS HALTED BY ORGANS OF THE CHEKA." HOWEVER, ARTICLE NOTES, BLUMENFELD'S FATHER AVOIDED TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS ACTIONS BY BECOMING EMPLOYEE OF GERMAN CONSULATE IN PETROGRAD.

5. ARTICLE DESCRIBES FAMILY'S DEPARTURE FOR GERMANY IN 1932, WITH RISE OF HITLER TO POWER AS PROOF OF FATHER'S POLITICAL CONVICTIONS AND NOT RPT NOT A REQUIRED ACTION. (CONGEN COMMENT: IF FACT, FATHER WAS PART JEWISH AND WAS DISMISSED BY NAZI REGIME.) GETTING AROUND TO ALFRED BLUMENFELD HIMSELF, ARTICLE TELLS HOW HE BECAME ECONOMIST BUT "LIKE HIS FATHER, WAS ATTRACTED TO ANOTHER PARTY," NAMELY THAT HE ENTERED GERMAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE--THE ABWEHR. ARTICLE CHARGES THAT BLUMENFELD SERVED IN ABWEHR FOR TEN YEARS, THE "MONSTROUS APPARATUS OF PROVOCATIONS AND SECRET MURDERS," ETC., AND THAT BLUMENFELD WELL AND TRULY SERVED FASCISM FOR THESE TEN YEARS. SPECIFIC CHARGES WERE THAT BLUMENFELD SERVED IN CONDOR LEGION IN SPAIN AND LATER IN OCCUPIED YUGOSLAVIA. (CONGEN COMMENT: BLUMENFELD DID SERVE AS NCO TRANSLATOR/MONITOR TECHNICIAN ON EASTERN FRONT--NOT EVER AS OFFICER.)

6. JUMPING TO 1958, ARTICLE SAYS BLUMENFELD WAS SENT TO MOSCOW AS HEAD OF ECONOMIC SECTION OF FRG EMBASSY AND THAT HE ENERGETICALLY STROVE TO GATHER INFORMATION AS HE MADE MANY TRIPS AROUND THE SOVIET UNION, BEING PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN PORT CITIES. AUTHOR BRINGS BLUMENFELD TO LENINGRAD WITH REMARK THAT "BLUMENFELD'S MASTERS OBVIOUSLY APPRECIATED HIS ACTIVITY AND OPEN SYMPATHY TOWARD THE POLICY OF THE TIMES OF COLD WAR; EVIDENTLY, BECAUSE OF THIS BLUMENFELD WAS SENT TO LENINGRAD IN THE CAPACITY OF CONSUL GENERAL."

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7. ARTICLE OBSERVES THAT BLUMENFELD NEVER VOICED HIS PERSONAL OPINIONS IN OFFICIAL MEETINGS AND AT RECEPTIONS, SUPPORTING BY WORDS THE OFFICIAL POLICY CONDUCTED BY HIS GOVERNMENT. IN FACT, HOWEVER, ARTICLE SAYS BLUMENFELD WAS ENGAGING IN DUPLICITY AND THAT IN PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH HIS ACQUAINTANCES IN THE CITY HE NEVER FAILED TO USE OCCASION TO DISCREDIT "OUR POLICY" AND EXPRESSED PERPLEXITY

OVER THE INDIGNATION OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE TOWARD THE "TREACHERY OF THE RENEGADE SOLZHENITSYN." CHANGING TO PRESENT TENSE, ARTICLE ADDS THAT "BLUMENFELD IS TRYING WITH ALL TRUTHS AND UNTRUTHS TO WIDEN THE CIRCLE OF HIS ACQUAINTANCES AND FIND AMONG THEM THOSE WHO COULD PROVIDE HIM WITH VALUABLE INFORMATION OF AN INTELLIGENCE CHARACTER." (CONGEN COMMENT: BLUMENFELD'S CIRCLE OF ACQUAINTANCES IS INDEED LARGE, BUT THIS ONLY REFLECTS HIS POPULARITY AS A "NATIVE SON" OF LENINGRAD AND HIS PARTICULARLY ACTIVE ENDEAVORS IN CULTURAL AREAS).

8. RATHER INCONSISTENT WITH EARLIER CHARGE THAT BLUMENFELD WAS INTERESTED IN VISITING PORT CITIES, ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT BLUMENFELD DID NOT WANT TO MAKE TRIPS TO OTHER CITIES OF NORTHWEST REGION, A POSSIBILITY OFFERED TO HIM AND ALL CONSULS. BLUMENFELD IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE RECEIVED TOO LITTLE INFORMATION FROM SUCH TRIPS AND HAD NOTHING TO PUT IN HIS REPORTS, AND AUTHOR CHARGES THAT THE "UBIQUITOUS CONSUL GENERAL IS SILENT ABOUT WHAT INFORMATION HE FINDS INSUFFICIENT."

9. WINDING UP, ARTICLE CHARGES THAT BLUMENFELD, ON EVE OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY OVER FASCIST GERMANY, TRIED IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE TO INCITE SEVERAL OF HIS COLLEAGUES TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF THE SOLDIERS OF THE HITLER ARMY. (CONGEN COMMENT: THIS IS AN OUTRIGHT LIE.) FINAL PARAGRAPH PONTIFICATES THAT "ANY COMMONSENSE PERSON UNDERSTANDS THAT PEOPLE LIKE BLUMENFELD, FAVORING THE POSITIONS OF REVANCHISM

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 211030Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2004

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LENINGRAD 0277

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SUPPORTERS OF COLD WAR, CANNOT SERVE CAUSE OF EASING OF INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THEIR ACTIONS NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICY OF DETENTE (RAZRYADKA)."

10. CONGEN COMMENT: BLUMENFELD HATCHET JOB IS, OF COURSE, IN LINE WITH "EXPOSE" OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES OF FRG MOSCOW EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY EBERHARD HEYKEN. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE CHOICE OF BLUMENFELD AS TARGET IN LENINGRAD IS NEW DIMENTION TO SOVIET RETALIATION AGAINST FRG TELEVISION FILM ON SPY ACTIVITIES OF SOVIET DIPLOMATS IN BONN. IT IS DELIBERATE ESCALATION IN SENSE THAT KGB COULD HAVE CONTRIVED SAME "EXPOSE" OF LESSER FIGURE HERE, NAMELY BLUMENFELD'S DEPUTY DIETER BODEN WHO RECEIVED BRUNT OF KGB SUPER SURVEILLANCE/HARASSMENT REACTION TO SHOWING OF TELEVISION FILM (SEE LENINGRAD 0195). IN CHOOSING BLUMENFELD, WE SUSPECT KGB HOPED TO DAMAGE HIS DIPLOMATIC EFFECTIVENESS, WHICH IS INDEED GREAT DUE TO HIS UNIQUE BACKGROUND. IRONY, IF NOT TRAGEDY OF SITUATION, IS THAT BLUMENFELD IS FAIRMINDED PROMOTER OF LENINGRAD AND LENINGRADERS AND IN NO WAY ENGAGES IN GRATUITOUS CRITICISMS; HE DOES SPEAK FRANKLY AND OPENLY TO KEY SOVIETS REGARDING HIS HONEST VIEWS OF PROBLEMS AND HOW HE BELIEVES THEY COULD BE ADDRESSED. BLUMENFELD, NOT SO INCIDENTALLY, IS CURRENTLY DEAN OF LENINGRAD CONSULAR CORPS AND KGB PROBABLY AIMED AT UNDERMINING HIS VERY EFFECTIVE CONDUCT OF DEAN'S RESPONSIBILITIES. ONLY ANGLE OF TIT FOR TAT WHICH WE SEE IN CHOICE OF BLUMENFELD FOR ARTICLE'S SLANDER IS AFFAIR IN HAMBURG ABOUT ONE YEAR AGO WHEN HAMBURG PRESS CHARGED THAT SOVIET CONSUL GENERAL THERE WAS HIGH KGB CONFIDENTIAL

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OFFICIAL, MASTER OF ESPIONAGE, ETC. THIS DOVETAILS WITH PRESENT SENSATIONALISMS IN SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS, BUT STILL CONSITUTES A HIGHER LEVEL OF RETALIATION THAN COULD HAVE BEEN CHOSEN, IE. AGAINST BODEN. THERE IS, OF COURSE, NO DOUBT THAT THIS AFFAIR WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLE IMPACT LOCALLY SINCE LENINGRAD SETTING IS VERY STRATIFIED AND PAROCHIAL IN SENSE OF PROPRIETIES AND LINGERING CONSEQUENCES OF EVENTS. IN ADDITION, ALTHOUGH BLUMENFELD HAS BEEN IN LENINGRAD AS CONSUL GENERAL FOR ABOUT FOUR YEARS, HE WAS NOT, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, PLANNING AN EARLY DEPARTURE. AFFAIR THUS INVOLVES POSSIBILITY OF HIM EITHER BEING PNGED OR WITHDRAWN, HAVING INEVITABLE IMPACT ON SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS. AT VERY LEAST, CHOICE OF BLUMENFELD AS TARGET WILL CERTAINLY MAKE WAVES AND CANNOT BUT CAUSE DEPRECIATION OF WHAT HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE FRG REPRESENTATIONS HERE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DEFAMATION, CONSULATES GENERAL, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LENING00277
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760065-0544
From: LENINGRAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760227/aaaaaxni.tel
Line Count: 216
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2004 by woolfhd>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG CONSUL GENERAL SLANDERED IN LENINGRAD PRESS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, GE, UR, (BLUMENFELD, ALFRED)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006